seasonal factories defined under the Act. M/s. Formix Industries, Punnathura, Kerala was treated as not coverable under the Act for some time because it engaged in manufacturing of rubber. The matter came to notice and has been examined and it has since been decided to enforce the ESI Act in all the seasonal factories including M/s. Formix Industries which are working for a period exceeding seven months in a year. No case of connivance of the ESI Corporation.

(b) Yes, Sir. Such companies are detected in the course of periodical surveys which is an ongoing process.

Rate of industrial growth

1691. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of industrial growth has shown a decline during April-July, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government to bring the growth rate at par with the previous rate;

(d) whether employment in the organised industrial sector has also shown a comparable decline in the current year; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) As per Index of Industrial Production, the overall industrial production in April—July, 1996-97 has recorded a growth of 9.3% as compared to growth rate of 12% recorded in the corresponding period of last year. The deceleration in industrial growth is confined to a few sectors particularly, the crude petroleum, fertilizers and power generation etc.

(c) Sector-specific strategies have been initiated to remove constraints in the underperforming sectors. Adequate credit with softened interest rates assured to industries through the recently announced busy season credit policy are providing further impetus to growth.

(d) There is no evidence to suggest that employment in the organised industrial sector has shown any decline in the current year.

(e) Does not arise.

Closure of iron ore mines in Orissa

1692. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of iron ore mines closed down in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Sundergarh districts in Orissa;

(b) the date(s) of the closure of those mines;

(c) the approximate number of workers engaged in those iron ore mines;

(d) the steps taken to provide alternative employment to those workers who have been through out of employment; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) As per information available from Govt. of Orissa, three Iron Ore mines have been closed down recently in Keonjhar District. There is no report of closing down of any mine in Mayurbhanj